

# Surgery in time saves sailor



EXPRESS PHOTO

The team of doctors with the sailor from Philippines.

**Express News Service**  
**Mangalore, May 13**

A sailor working on a Japanese tanker escaped from the stigma of an amputated finger on his 'working hand,' after accessing a microsurgery in the nick of time.

The 42-year-old sailor, of Manila in Philippines sailing on a Japanese tanker ship, Sunny Express, got his fingers of the right hand entangled in heavy steel cables. With both the injured fingers moving well, it was as-

sumed that the sailor was lucky to have escaped without a major injury.

However Dr MS Puttran at the New Mangalore Port who examined the patient referred him to orthopaedic surgeon Dr Ramachandra of Athena Hospital. The orthopaedician suspected a vascular injury after discovering the dark coloured ring finger. Plastic and microvascular surgeon Dr Satish Bhat confirmed total absence of blood circulation and the team decided on an emer-

gency microvascular surgery to restore the blood flow.

Without microsurgery, gangrene and later amputation was inevitable if the injury was not attended to within 12 hours. The delicate microsurgery which required sutures thinner than human hair successfully restored the circulation and oxygen supply to the finger.

The patient recovered and reunited with his family in Manila.



# Rare microsurgery saves Filipino's hand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangalore: P Sathish Bhat, plastic and micro vascular surgeon, operated successfully on a patient who suffered from vascular injury and saved the patient from losing his finger here on April 24. Alexander Mortera, a resident of the Philippines, who was

working on a tanker ship got his fingers entangled in heavy steel cables, causing wounds on the middle and ring fingers of his right hand.

Shipping doctor M S Putran referred him to Athena Hospital where orthopaedic surgeon Ramachandra suspected vascular injury and contacted Bhat.

Bhat after examining the patient

noticed the cold, dark finger and confirmed total absence of blood circulation beyond the injury. Emergency microvascular surgery to restore the blood flow was decided. Surgery began 12 hours after the injury. Bhat used microsurgery techniques to delicately clean the injured 'digital artery' and repair the vessel quickly.

These needed stitches thinner than the human hair. This successfully restored circulation and oxygen supply to the finger thirteen-and-a-half hours after the initial injury. The second digital artery was also repaired to finish the surgery in about three hours. The patient recovered smoothly from the surgery and the finger survived.

# Microsurgery: Filipino's fingers saved

**MANGALORE, DHNS:** A Philippines national was saved from a serious vascular injury on his fingers due to the timely action of a Mangalore doctor.

Alexander Mortera, working in a tanker ship, had wounds on his middle and ring fingers of his right hand after they were entangled in heavy steel cables.

Referred by shipping doctor M S Putran, Mortera approached Orthopaedic surgeon Ramachandra Bhat of Athena hospital, who in turn, suspecting vascular injury contacted Plastic and micro vascular surgeon P Sathish Bhat.

## Emergency

Bhat noticed total absence of blood circulation in the fingers, beyond the injury and decided to perform an emergency microvascular surgery to restore the blood flow.

The injured 'digital artery' was delicately cleaned and the blood vessels were repaired quickly, thus availing oxygen supply to the fingers.

The surgery involved stitches thinner than human hair and micro surgery techniques.

The patient has recovered, the release added.

## Timely surgery saves sailor's life

Express News Service

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